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Special Reports Branch

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RADIO MOSCOW'S TREATMENT OF POINT FOUR

Aid to underdeveloped countries under the Point Four Plan receives low-level attention from the Moscow radio. Thus, during the past six months there were only 30 commentaries devoted to the subject—one a week on the average.* This, however, does not include references on a paragraph or sentence level which often appear in general discussions of imperialist expansion or colonialism. The 30 broadcasts were beamed almost entirely to Asian (15) and Middle East (13) audiences. There was one comment to the Soviet domestic audience and one to Spanish-speaking listeners; this was a PRAVDA article on 10 August which was broadcast a total of 16 times—in itself unusual since for the most part commentaries on Point Four are broadcast once or twice.

Substance of the Comment: Certain themes are pursued consistently. Moscow contends that

1. aid is a weapon of U.S. imperialist expansion;
2. aid is being forced on the underdeveloped countries;
3. the plan is a device for gaining control of raw materials, particularly strategic resources;
4. aid is being used as a pretext for interference in internal affairs;
5. American investors are exploiting the plan to increase the export of capital;
6. The economies of countries receiving aid are deteriorating rapidly;
7. aid is connected with imperialist aggressive plans.

The final contention, however, is not emphasized and when made is usually couched in generalities. Exceptions to this include the statement that financial aid to Saudi Arabia went hand in hand with placing the Saudi Arabian army under the United States. Similarly, there have been isolated instances where technical experts were accused of spying. This charge was made in connection with the arrival of health experts in Iran. It is more usual for the spying charge to occur in connection with comment on the Mutual Security Act.

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*Moscow's total output in a typical week amounts to 1375 commentaries.

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The recent note to Afghanistan regarding technical assistance in the northern areas received no mention in monitored broadcasts.

Comment on the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development: This subject has received much less attention than that of Point Four and the bulk of the material is beamed to Iran. However, these discussions were not always in connection with the oil controversy but were in the broader framework of the Bank's role as a tool in America's colonising policy.

5 copies to DADO by hand
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